

APPARATUS, SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR
ELECTRONICALLY TEACHING PHONICS

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides apparatus, systems and methods for electronically teaching phonics. The exemplary embodiment provides a base unit with multiple receiving wells for 10 blocks. The outer surface of each face of each block expresses an alphabetic character. Each face of each alphabet block has a unique bit pattern expressed in a pattern of electrically conductive material that identifies the alphabetic character expressed on the outer surface of the opposing block face. Underneath the exposed surface of the floor of each block receiving well, is an electronic sensing device. The electronic sensing device uses capacitive coupling in accordance with a test bit pattern to identify the alphabetic character expressed by each block in each block receiving well. A computer device, such as a microprocessor, identifies phonetic relationships between the exposed letters and determines the phoneme for each exposed alphabetic character for each block in a block receiving well. The invention then audibly plays the phoneme representing each exposed alphabetic character according to a player's 25 instructions.

FOREGOING SPECIFICATION
20
25

MAS PAS326975.1--2/9/01 9:10 PM

30

35